

THE SABRES' BLADE

February 25, 1998

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXV

DECA loses a Priceless leader

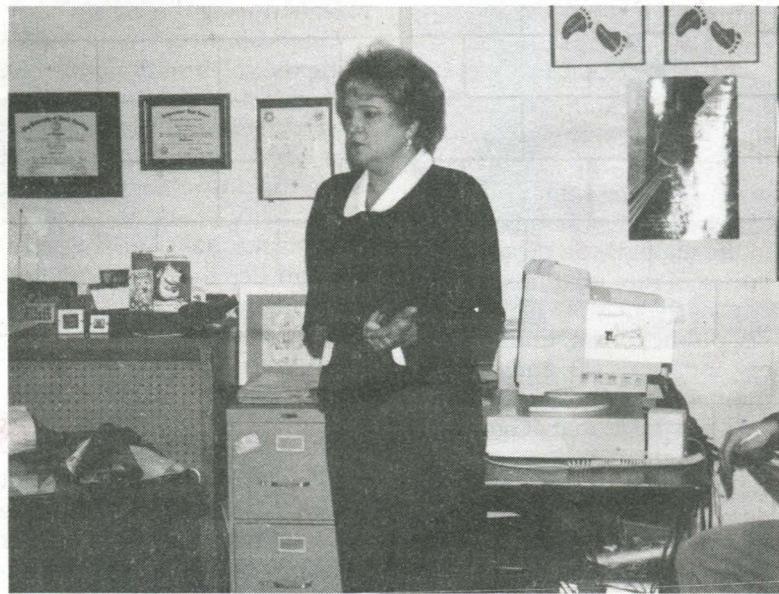
By Jennifer Collins

For twenty-one years, students and teachers have heard Mrs. Sarah Price walking (most people would call it running) down the hall. But on March 16, the fast walking feet of Mrs. Price will be heard by a different group of students. She will be leaving South to become one of three Academic Internship Coordinators for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

As the DECA advisor, Mrs. Price has led DECA members to state and national recognition. But it is her love for all of her students and her joy in sharing her words of wisdom to lay the groundwork for success in marketing careers that brings Mrs. Price the greatest pleasure in teaching.

The first assignment for students in her Small Business Entrepreneurship or Strategic Marketing classes is to design a personal coat of arms. This assignment impels students to evaluate the people, activities, and goals that are important to them. The next step is to write a personal mission statement that sums up their purpose in life.

Mrs. Price believes in honest



Staff Photographer

Mrs. Price is leaving South for a new career direction.

words, actions, and a positive attitude. She tries to instill in her students that complaining only takes time away from all the positive activities in which they can participate.

Price believes that South is on track to continue to receive recognition as an exemplary school. However, despite the positive direction that the school and marketing program have enjoyed, she believes that the opportunity is right for her to

enter a different realm of teaching and leading students.

The most appealing aspect of her new position is the ability to actively involve the community and industry with educational experiences. Mrs. Price will be able to match students' interests with internship placements in all career areas.

South students thank Mrs. Price for her commitment to success and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Cafeteria receives low sanitation grade

By Andrew Buchert

On Tuesday, January 20, 1998, the cafeteria received a sanitation grade of 83.5 from the Health Department. On Friday, January 23, the inspector returned and changed the grade to a 93.5. The low grade was primarily the result of regulations that have changed since South was built.

South's cafeteria was written up by the inspector for several mechanical and facility shortcomings. The cafeteria has not used a dishwasher since its commercial-grade one was removed over four years ago. It was the position of the school system at that time that instead of replacing dishwashers, the schools would switch to paper products.

The sinks in the cafeteria have two compartments instead of three compartments. Recent regulations require a separate compartment each for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing.

A third issue was that there is

no hot water in the bathrooms outside the cafeteria. It is not a school construction requirement that hot water be available in student bathrooms, but those located outside of the cafeteria need to be equipped with warm water. A sneeze guard also needs to be added to one of the serving lines.

The issues that were addressed with the cafeteria affect almost every school in the system. "If you looked at the number of schools that will need the additional sinks, dishwashers, and hot water in the bathrooms, you are looking at a substantial amount of money," said Dr. Knox.

The school system came to an understanding with the Health Department that these issues would be corrected and in place before the beginning of the 1998-1999 school year. "There is no way we can put in a dishwasher between now and the end of the school year without shutting the place down," said Dr. Knox.

Tied to all of these is the issue of cost. "You look at the cost of the dishwasher and the amount of remodeling that is going to have to take place to get it in there [the cafeteria], and you are looking at a situation that is probably going to run around forty thousand dollars," he added.

It is not a requirement for the cafeteria to have a dishwasher, however. Styrofoam trays can be used instead of the plastic ones, and the pots and pans that are used for cooking can be washed in a three compartment sink.

The majority of the issues that were addressed by the Health Department were equipment and facility issues. "Where the problems came in did not involve the food or overall cleanliness of the cafeteria," said Danielle Corbin, the cafeteria manager. "I am happy to give anyone a tour of the kitchen and show anybody everything they want to see," she said.

South artists showcase talent in Scholastic Competition

By Laura King

In competition at the local level of the 1998 National Scholastic Art Show at Charlotte Douglas International Airport, South claimed an overwhelming twenty-six awards and \$1,570 in scholarships. The entries were selected from students in all levels of art classes by the art teachers. Junior Hadley Trotter led the way for the Sabres, bringing home a total of seven awards for outstanding achievements. These included two \$100 cash awards for outstanding senior high paintings and three Gold Keys. Other Gold Key winners for South were Brian King for an acrylic painting, who also received a \$100 cash award, and Kate Meier for an oil painting. These works will go on to Washington, D.C. to compete at the national show in the spring. In addition, senior Elizabeth Hamilton received a \$175 purchase award. Her work will be

come a part of the buyer's permanent collection.

South's artists received a total of ten Silver Key awards for the top local works, four of them going to senior Hillary Vaden. Other Silver Key winners were Hadley Trotter, Elizabeth Hamilton, Tommy Pope, and Lance Townsend. South received six honorable mentions, three of them by junior Kate Meier. Other recipients of honorable mentions included Jenny Martelle, Elizabeth Hamilton and Kevin Chheda.

South's outstanding achievements in this prestigious competition are the combined efforts of our talented artists and teachers. Terry Baucom received a well-deserved cash award for most outstanding art teacher in the 1996 show.

Congratulations to our winners and to all South Meck artists who competed in the 1998 National Scholastic Art Show. Good luck to our Gold Key winners this spring.

Administration begins crackdown on discipline problems

By Karen Whichard

"Code blue! Special blue team report to small cafeteria!" Once again, the intercom interrupted the serenity of class, and announced an infamous sweep. Many students were rudely awakened as dawn broke on second semester; the discipline crackdown had begun.

The school year began with

the installation of a new discipline system, known as the Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

Eric Smith, superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, devised the handbook to create a safer school environment system wide.

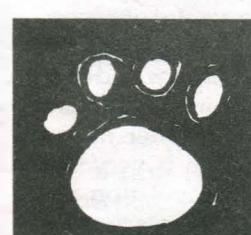
South Mecklenburg, as well as the other schools in the system, tested students on their knowledge of the rules, as well as the consequences. Parents were also required to read the handbook and sign a statement recognizing that they knew the rules and consequences.

The Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook gained little attention after the first few weeks of school, and was forgotten

ten until the beginning of second semester. During second semester, however, many crucial End of Course tests will be given that help determine South Meck's progress in the state's ABC program. Dr. Knox, aware of the large contingent of the student body that was out of place on a regular basis, devised the sweep system to create a better learning environment.

The first day the administration swept the campus, over thirty students were suspended. Although suspension may sound harsh for being out of class without a note, Dr. Knox said, "These were the same kids we've been dealing with all along." By suspending these students, the administration has sent a strong message to those who continually break the rules. For example, during first semester there were approximately 330 suspensions, but only 170 students suspended. According to Dr. Knox, "We cannot provide a place for students to hang out." With the installation this new discipline program, many have learned the hard way.

Is Sabre
Pride
dwindling?

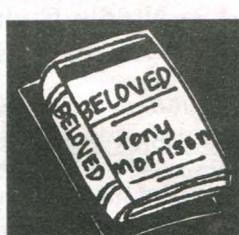


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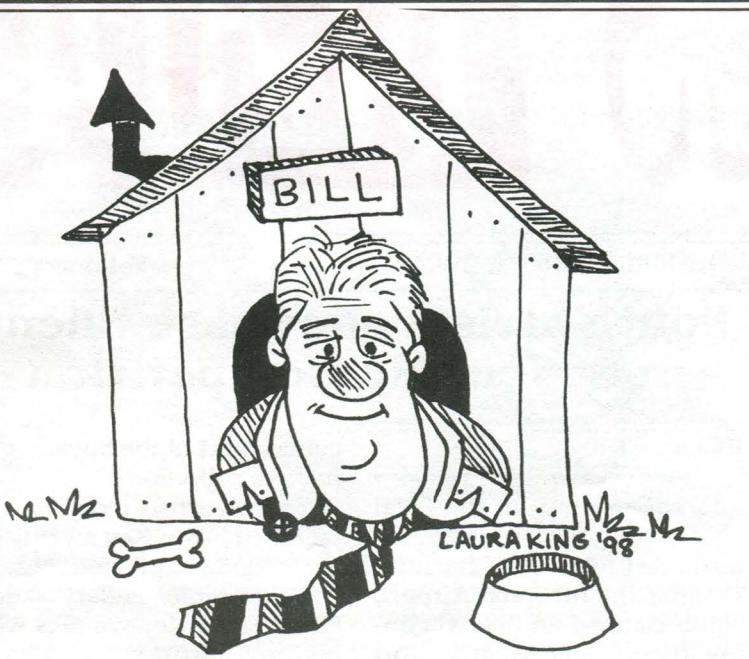
Check out Sabres'
music favorites...

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Celebrating
black
history...



Page 6



Someone stole our Sabre Pride

By Gia Clements

There has been a decline of school spirit within the last four years. I look back now as I prepare to graduate in a few months and ask myself what happened to all the proud Sabres we once had. It appears that fewer students at South have any remote interest in being a Sabre as well as a student. This new lack of school spirit is hurting the school at sports events, club membership, and in the public eye.

Football attendance never seems to dwindle; perhaps that's because of the social atmosphere of a football game. Students, teachers, even people in the community come to the games. After the season is over, however, support and encouragement in the stands all but disappear. What happens to these eager Sabre supporters? Are they claustrophobic and fear sitting in a gym for more than fifteen minutes? Sabre Pride is not supposed to disappear if it's rainy or if you are having a bad day. Our athletes are working hard everyday so they can defend the pride of South, and the least we can do is support their efforts. They need more than cheerleaders and injured athletes in the crowds; they need you.

Most students at South are

bound for a college or university after their high school career. A good transcript filled with club activities improves the chances of being accepted by a college. But participating in clubs on campus is more than attending the meetings and signing the roster. Sabre pride requires participating in community service projects that these clubs sponsor. In doing this the community has a chance to see not just students but caring Sabres giving something back to the community. Don't just join random clubs to puff up a transcript. Be an active member and encourage other Sabres to follow your lead.

The music and drama departments give Sabres the chance to become culturally aware, a chance many choose to turn down. Take this opportunity to support your fellow Sabres in their endeavors. You'll be glad you did.

Each of us will be a Sabre for the rest of our lives; it shouldn't be kept a secret. Let the pride within you out and have some fun with it. It is fine to yell and cheer at sports events; in fact, it is a great way to relieve the stress from a tough day at school. Instead of griping about the trash and waste in society, go out there and clean it up with a service club. Being a devoted Sabre feels good; try it.

To best honor Martin Luther King, look within

By Muhammad Abdullah

As Joan Rivers said, "Can we talk?"

What do white people say when alone with one another—especially in the circle of their closest friends? What do black people say under similar circumstances?

It is a question both races think about, and each suspects they know the answer. That is the quiet, very private dialogue, away from the cameras and the spotlight, that is at the real heart of the dialogue on race. It is the vortex of race relations. It is the crux of the matter. It haunts every public forum, underlies every conscious act, and fuels the momentum of both good and ill will, as well as that of ignorance and insight.

Dr. Martin Luther King understood that. He understood that the candid dialogues that occupied the public forum in the '30's, '40's, and '50's, often without fear of reprisal—and which were gradually driven underground in the '60's—must be addressed. He understood that this dialogue, while not limited to just blacks and whites, was the one that shaped the environment for all others.

King understood that this was the fertile soil from which who we were and what we could become was determined. It is the epicenter of the great emotional, moral and social earthquake that is now erupting on the national and local landscape. King's actions and words were aimed there. It is why, whether we liked him or not, he had such a profound impact upon us all. King stirred our soul.

As a college student coming of age in the '60's, with more than a passing relationship with the arts and civil rights, it came as no surprise to me that we called our music "soul music." It was. Many of our best poets sang the music and said the words that spoke to the soul of the time.

It's why Marvin Gaye asked the question "What's Going

On?" And black people and the really hip, the cool ones asked "What's happening?" And those in the know responded through the refrain "I heard it through the grapevine." The music and the slang echoed the dialogues that were going on in private during the '60's.

On the anniversary of King's birth, the celebration of his life, perhaps we should pay less attention to the daily details of his life, which were indeed filled with the imperfections that reach many of us, and instead look to the heart of the man. Therein lies his greatness and enduring importance to us.

King has long been synonymous with oratory. There may have been none finer. He stands on par with Lincoln at Gettysburg and Churchill during England's "finest hour." But his great oratory was only the outward expression of a deeper passion, an abiding belief, a great faith. His real legacy to us is the call to candor, the call to re-examine our inner landscape, the landscape where our true dreams dwell, as well as our fears and our prejudices.

The noted psychiatrist Carl Jung said it well: "Your vision will only become clear when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens." Let us awaken.

It's time to live up to our biggest dream, our highest common denominator, not our lowest one. We have the power. We have the potential. Do we have the will? If we can only find the courage, the nerve to look, if only for one day a year—to take a true inventory, a real accounting of the heart, the spirit, the soul of our nation, our city and ourselves—there may be no better day than the one that commemorates the life and work of Dr. King. I suspect it is a legacy he would be proud to embrace.

Muhammad Abdullah is a *Charlotte Observer* columnist, lawyer, writer, and former university admissions officer at Yale and UCLA.

Seize the day before it's too late

By Karen Whichard

"Thus, though we cannot make our sun stand still, yet we will make him run." Andrew Marvell.

The twisted wreckage tugged at my stomach, and a new feeling entered my soul. For the first time in my life I was afraid of dying. As I looked at the photos of a teammate's demolished car, a testament to the Mack truck that throttled her from behind, I realized that I had gazed at one too many accident scenes. For the most part these near calamities were the other driver's fault, and it is terrifying to think that in a matter of moments all the hard work and dreams of a friend or myself could be lost forever.

Most of us have put it on second semester cruise control, and are just waiting. We have forgot-

ten to look at the opportunities of today, and are instead waiting

for next year, waiting for summer, waiting for college. Yes, the present is important, but the future is what we are living for. What if you were paralyzed on the way home today, though? Imagine how much you would yearn to be able to go through one seemingly mundane day just one more time. All the waiting would seem a waste, and the future would be forever altered.

As this school year progresses, be careful of becoming too entangled with future plans. There are wonderful things to be done each day, and it would be a disaster to lose them. Our nation is very concerned with competition and productivity, but be wary of losing the fun in life. Disaster strikes everyday, and often it steals what matters the most.

Quick Take on Opinions

Cancer sticks are real killers

Have you ever walked through the mall and suddenly been engulfed by a hazy, gray mist? You try to avoid it or go around it, but you're trapped by the putrescent smell of your fellow Generation Xers smoking. You all know people who smoke, or you yourself may smoke. The fact is a great deal of teenagers smoke on a daily basis.

I always associate smoking with yellowish teeth and finger nails accompanied by really bad breath. Have you ever ridden in a smoker's car or kissed a smoker? If you're not a smoker yourself, don't forget your gas mask!

Anna Davis
The WordSmith
Benjamin Smith High School

STOP! Do not mistreat underclassmen

One big problem is that when underclassmen reach senior status, and sometimes junior status, they think that part of the job description is to ruin the self-esteem of the new kids, but it's not. Our job is to graduate and get ready for what we want to do with our lives. And, like it or not, we are role models. Many of you remember when you first came to high school, how you saw the seniors as the "big dawgs" and those whom you respected and looked toward for acceptance. We need to give the new classes something to look up to.

Sarah Nicholls
The Eagle
East Mecklenburg High School

Fight the epidemic

I'm not going to lie; I have experienced the infamous "Senioritis." Everyone will at one time or another. But once my parents caught a hold of me and my grades, I had to shape up. The main difference is that I'm not on a "Senioritis" binge fest any longer, while with some seniors, it seems to be an epidemic.

To me, the meaning of "Senioritis" is, to put it bluntly, to be lazy.

When you sign your letter of intent to the college of your choice it is a big relief. I know the first thing that came to my mind and everyone else's was "yes, I don't have to worry about school anymore." The scary thing is that we are wrong. Did you know that a college can and will take away your admission into its school and/or your scholarship? Pretty scary, huh? Every person who graduates and is going to college has to send his prospective college his end of the year grades. And if you have dropped from A's to D's, then they will probably reconsider you.

Maren Brisson
The Spartan Shield
Sun Valley High School

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Faces in the Crowd



Staff Photographer

Name: Kristy Michue

Movie: Scream

Favorite Color: Blue

Most Admires: Mother Teresa

Cartoon Character: Elmo

In CD Player: Shania Twain



Staff Photographer

Name: Mona Banawan

Movie: Braveheart

Music: Arabic

Role Model: Mom

Preferred Food: Lasagna

Birthday: January 7, 1981

A head above the rest

By Karen Whichard

Although Kristy Michue is approaching the end of her senior year at South, her mark left on the South Meck campus will last long after she's gone. One of the best all-around students in the senior class, Kristy has compiled an impressive resume' in her four years at South.

Though she is known by many first as a student, Kristy is one of the best volleyball players in the county. She was selected all-conference her junior and senior years, and was also all-county her senior year. During the winter she participated in Junior Olympic Volleyball, and this season she made Howard Barnhill's 18 and under volleyball team, which is the premier team in both Charlotte and North Carolina.

As talented as she is in athletics, Kristy's academic success cannot be matched. She is valedictorian of the Class of 1998, and has been accepted into the honors program at Virginia Tech. Her other college options include Harvard, Duke, and Wake Forest. "A valedictorian like Kristy Michue is rare," said Mr. Kutner, her English teacher. "Her modesty and humility continually astound me."

Kristy is also dedicated to the community. She serves as senior representative in her youth group, and travels on missions in the summer, building houses for Habitat for Humanity. She believes these trips are a great learning experience. "You meet people who are grateful for even the smallest blessing they receive," she said.

Learning through faith

By Nicole Ewing

"Be proud of who you are, and try to find your inner self." This insightful piece of advice comes from one of South's most discerning students, Mona Banawan.

This soft-spoken junior is on a path to success. Mona excels in many higher-level courses; her favorite subject is Biology II AP. "She is a very sincere and disciplined student," said Mr. Rose, her AP Biology teacher. "She has a quiet demeanor and gives one hundred percent in every aspect of her life." Mona is also a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and International Club.

Mona represents a small minority at South. Her belief in the Islamic faith is a way of life for her, not just a religion that is practiced on Sundays. Part of

being a Muslim includes fasting during the holiday of Ramadan. Mona believes that fasting teaches her self-control, and helps her to understand how those less fortunate feel without food. "Islam is a religion of peace and unity," she said. "Without Islam I don't know what kind of person I would be."

Her devotion to her religion does leave her some time to enjoy her favorite activities such as spending time with her friends and family and reading the Quran. Every two years, Mona has the opportunity to travel to Egypt to visit her family and learn more about the Islamic religion.

In the future, Mona plans to attend UNCC, and looks forward to a career in the biological field. Mona will be successful in whatever she does.

What is your opinion on President Clinton's alleged sexual misconduct?

"They should concentrate more on the fact that he lied than on his personal life."

Michael Tong, 12th

"As long as he runs the country well, his personal life should not matter."

Nick Eckhardt, 12th

"The media should stay out of people's personal lives; it causes too much trouble."

Travis Fraster, 11th

"I think she is lying because she wants money and now she is trying to ruin Clinton's reputation."

Scott Summerer, 12th

"They should look into it immediately; anyone who committed a felony should not run the country."

Anita Desai, 11th

"He has more important things, and this should be dealt with after his term is over."

Hadley Trotter, 11th

"I do not agree with what he did; it is making the people of the US look bad."

He is setting a bad example."

Monique Douglas, 12th

"If he is guilty, he should not be president because adultery is a crime."

Lindsay Calhoun, 10th

Fender Mender

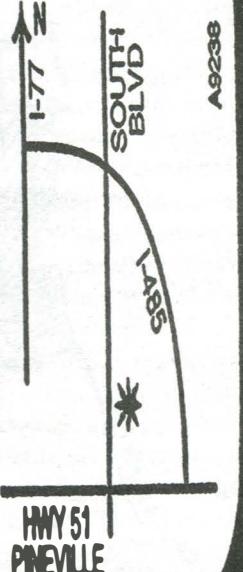
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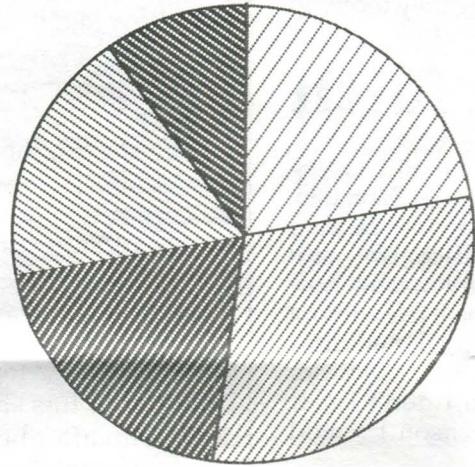


By Karen Whichard

Music. It's the one word that can spark more controversy and debate than any other, besides religion. Musical styles are amazingly varied, and some listeners prefer angst-ridden music while others prefer stress relief. Many view music as a powerful communicator; others write it off as subculture. There are those who follow one band, Phish, around for months, and others who have never seen anyone in concert. Whatever your musical tastes may be, hopefully they can be found somewhere in these pages. Read, enjoy, and respond. In a subject as broad as music, we must have left something out.

What's your favorite music station?

This data was collected by the Blades data gurus Andrew Dyer and Mathew Strother. It reflects the opinion of random students here at South. So, which radio station do you listen to?



106.5	30.0%
95.1	20.0%
97.9	18.0%
99.7	10.0%
Other	22.0%

Answer to music mystery: 'Stairway To Heaven' by Led Zeppelin

Back to the 80's

By Megan McKnight and
Nicole Ewing

Everyone remembers the funky beats of Boy George, Michael Jackson, and Debbie Gibson. The synthesized keyboards and interesting fashion styles bring back fond memories of the '80's.

Although most of the bands came from England and broke up after a year, they left our generation with a great many one-hit wonders to enjoy on the '80's at 8:00 on 107.9 The Link. Who could forget "I Want Candy," and "Hey Mickey, You're so Fine."

80's music was the foundation for many of the 90's bands such as New Kids on the Block, and Vanilla Ice. The musicians of the 80's set the fashion trends with their signature styles like MC Hammer's parachute pants and Kiss's extremely colorful makeup.

So when you turn on the radio, and it is the same old band you hear everyday, just stick in your dusty, old Milli Vanilli tape and take a trip back to one of the best decades music has ever seen.

That's a rap

By Tanikkia Tyson

The birth of old school rap took place in New York state during the early 80s. It would only take a few years since that time that rap would become the most sought after music and entertainment business ever among the community of the youth.

The popularity of rap can be heard in every part of the country, by people of every color of the rainbow.

Who knew this form of poetic type music, which lets rappers express their deepest

most inner thoughts of their lifestyle, hardships, and player haters, could become headlines of newspapers, magazines, and television. "Gangsta" rap has become a controversial topic because of a rapper's run-ins with the law and its major influences on young minds.

Rap has survived a lot of negative feedback and it is still going strong with artists such as: Jay Z, Puff Daddy, the Wu Tang Clan, the late Christopher Wallace(Biggy Small) and Tupac Shakur.

Not just gospel

By Elizabeth Berry

Christian music is one of the oldest types of music. It has always been a unique form of music with its own characteristics. First the lyrics had the Old English *thee's* and *thou's* but within recent years they have become more personalized and the themes are more expressive.

Today, the only difference between secular and Christian is the message it portrays. The music behind the words has the same beat. For a long time Christian music was almost a decade behind non-religious music. Fortunately, the trend is decreasing and in the past ten years it has almost caught up.

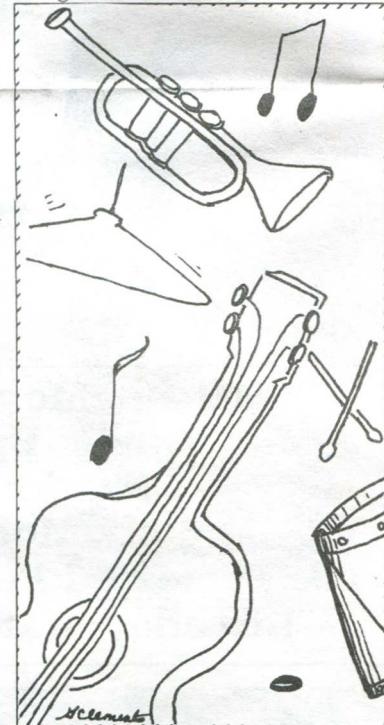
In fact, the new style of SKA was first introduced by Christian artists.

Some of the popular Christian groups include Michael W. Smith, Point of Grace, Newsboys, Supertones, Five Iron Frenzy, Steven Curtis Chapman, PFR, Squad-Five-O, 4HIM, Zao, Jars of Clay, Amy Grant, and Focal Point. To check out these and other great artists visit your local Christian book stores, such as the Family Bookstore in McMullen Creek, because you won't find these artists at any regular record store. They are something special.

Alternative goes global

By Gia Clements

Alternative music is not easily defined which makes it a perfect symbol for the latter half of the '90's. This is an age of individuality and of discovery; people are expressing their opinions, and for once, others are listening. The musicians sing of questioning long-held beliefs, love, and the future. Alternative music has ditched the synthesizers and drum machines of the late 80's and early 90's. The sound and soul of the music now lies in the words of the songs and in the chords of acoustic guitars and drums. The people who listen to this type of music usually recognize the problems of society and appreciate the themes of the music. They feel they can identify with the words of the songs. Global issues such as pollution and war and the destruction of the planet often are found in the words of these songs.



Singing the blues

By Tanikkia Tyson

R&B/Rhythm and Blues has progressed through the years and keeps coming back with new artists who are taking over the musical air waves. The sultry new generation of R&B consists of artists like Erykah Badu, Boyz II Men, Maxwell, and Usher Raymond, who is blowing up the R&B charts across the nation with two #1 hits from his recent album.

R&B would not be what it is today without influences of the old school generation such as Patti LaBelle, Al Green, Stevie Wonder, and Aretha Franklin. These people laid the foundation for future artists and so far Rhythm and Blues keeps beating "On On."



Music Makers

Layout By
Gia Clements



Country comeback

By Gia Clements

The soulful wails of acoustic guitars and the distinctive Levi jeans and cowboy hats have become the symbol for country music in the '90's. Looking around, almost every person knows the words to at least one country song, and given the chance, they'd be more than happy to give their rendition of the latest by Travis Tritt, Garth Brooks, or the amazing Leann Rimes. Country music has always been the sound of choice for the South, reflecting the

lifestyle and the feelings of those who live here. Slowly but surely Country is gaining popularity throughout the country as people lose their prejudices and begin to listen more to the meaning of the songs than who sings it. Those who listen to country have a special place in their heart for all the lonely people in the world and would be more than happy to lend a hand to a good looking southerner in a nice pair of blue jeans.

Coming soon: the Blade Runners



Classic Rock

By Matt Strother

"Classic Rock" is a name given to rock music that has endured throughout the years. Although many bands are grouped as "rock", they all have an individual, distinct sound that characterizes their music.

Rock music originated during the fifties as a result of the popularity of blues music in mainstream America. In 1961, a band known as the Beatles emerged from England, changing the sound of rock from a pop sound to a form emphasizing social issues of the time. The Rolling Stones became popular in 1964 with their more blues based sound. The Stones were seen as the exact oppo-

site of the Beatles. Instead of clean cut and nice, they were dirty and rough.

Breaking with the norm, the extremely talented Jimi Hendrix broke onto the rock scene in 1967. Known for a distinct guitar style and songs, he popularized soaring guitar solos with quick licks. Other bands were quick to follow his style. Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" was released the same year. Pink Floyd's music was simple in nature but still had the long melodic guitar solos that made them popular.

As Rock became more mainstream "Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll" became the phrase that many of the bands of the age lived by. This lifestyle paid

a heavy toll on many artists such as Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, and Janis Joplin, who died from drug overdoses. Leaving somewhat of a void to be filled, they left the door open for new emerging groups.

Led Zeppelin was this group. With a new sound that few had heard, Zeppelin accumulated a huge fan base. Their music was often hard and loud, with lead singer Robert Plant belting out the highly emotional lyrics.

Classic Rock remains a dominant music form today. Bands of the past are still quite popular, and bands such as Aerosmith, The Rolling Stones, and Lynyrd Skynyrd carry on the tradition. Rock is still going strong, even after all this time.

Legacy of metal

By Andrew Dyer

Of all the types of music, metal is one of the most misunderstood. It has three major forms, and none of which involve Poison.

The most famous is **Heavy Metal**, which is shown by bands such as Metallica and Sepultura. It was greatly influenced by the seventies group Black Sabbath, and is characterized by fast guitar, loud drums, and the lead singer screaming the lyrics.

Death Metal is another of the three forms. The band Slayer had the most effect on this genre. It uses very complex musical devices and the singer has an incredibly deep voice. In the works of the groups Deicide and Obituary, these ideas are shown perfectly.

The least popular of the three is **Black Metal**, but its popularity is on the rise. Often the lyrics are more poetic than

the other two and many bands have added instruments such as organs, giving it a more gothic feel. Most black metal bands are underground, but two of the better known are Emperor and Arcturus.

Though each form of metal is slightly different, they all reflect the emotions of its followers. The music brings together people of different backgrounds but with common beliefs.

Defining ska

By Nicole Ewing

Most people have never heard of Ska. Those who have, still do not really know what it is that makes it so appealing to this generation. Basically, it is a distinct type of alternative music with a mixture of horns, guitars, and drums. It usually has a fast beat perfect for dancing in a mosh pit.

The emergence of bands such as No Doubt, Goldfinger, Reel Big Fish, and The Mighty Mighty Bosstones have introduced the public to a new brand of music. The trumpet, found in most ska bands, gives the music a different beat and a crisp sound. Lyrics can range from politics, to random love

songs, to everyday occurrences. Ska bands tend to be anti-trendy, setting their own styles and not following the crowd. Many young girls look to Gwen Stefani, the lead singer of No Doubt, for the latest off the wall styles. Each band has its own individual look, whether it is suits and ties, or t-shirts and jeans.

If you are still clueless on what ska is, you can probably check out a local ska band at Tremont Music Hall, where many bands have gotten their start. If you're sick of hearing the same songs, day after day try out ska. It will be like nothing you've heard before.



Celebrating Black History



Zora Neale Hurston



James Baldwin



Lorraine Hansberry



Langston Hughes

A struggle for success

By Elizabeth Berry and
Megan McKnight

As children, we are taught that Harriet Tubman rescued the blacks from slavery through the underground railroad and George Washington Carver showed southern farmers how diversification restored fertility to the land. But as adults we understand the influencing power of many African-Americans in our society.

Since the ruling of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, blacks have been denied many rights through segregation laws and white supremacy. In 1954, a dramatic court case, *Brown v. Board of Education (of Topeka)*, reached the Supreme Court and the "separate but equal" doctrine was overruled by a majority vote. Soon after the hearing, Martin Luther King Jr. assumed the leadership of the Civil Rights movement and preached a nonviolent message. The movement gained wide-spread support within the decade and led to the passage of laws against racial dis-

crimination, which included the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

One outstanding African American, Clarence Thomas, holds one of the most prestigious positions in the country today. He is the second black Supreme Court justice ever, only behind Thurgood Marshall. Carol Mosley Braun is another politically active African American. Braun is the Democratic Senator from Illinois, the first black female ever to be elected to Congress.

Jackie Robinson was the first African-American ever signed by a major league team and began playing second base in 1947 for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. The NBA is also a high spot for today's African Americans. They make up the majority of the sport and have proved that determination can lead to greatness. Michael Jordan is one such person. He graduated from one of America's top universities, UNC, and went on to be one of the greatest basketball players ever.

Throughout history, extraordinary African Americans have broken down the race barriers that have blocked their paths to success. Even entertainers had to strive for acceptance in yesterday's white world. Paul Robeson, to our generation unknown, was a singer and actor who sang spirituals and made several films including stage performances in *Othello* and *Emperor Jones*. Oprah Winfrey, named one of America's richest women, is an example of how far African Americans have come. She is an outspoken activist on equal rights and better race relations, and strives for excellence for all.

Attempts for more freedom in the black community has been a struggle since the Civil War. With strong determination they reached and achieved their goal after years of abuse. February is Black History Month, and we celebrate the achievements of the many promising African Americans our country has to offer.



Claude McKay



Dorothy West



Alice Walker



Frederick Douglass

We Wear the Mask

We wear the mask that grins
and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades
our eyes-
This debt we pay to human
guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts
we smile,
And mouth with myriad
subtleties.

Why should the world be
otherwise,
In counting all our tears and
sighs?



Paul Lawrence Dunbar

Nay, let them only see us,
while
We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ,
our cries
To thee from tortured soul
arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the
mile;
But let the world dream
otherwise,
We wear the mask!

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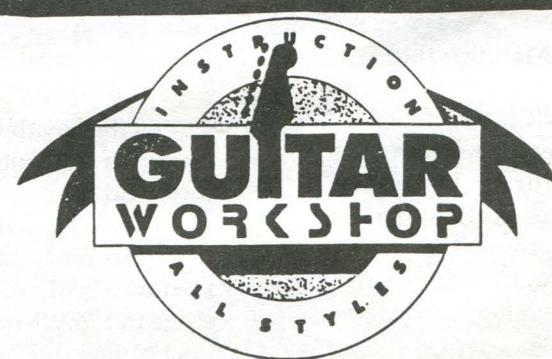
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Neill wins Athlete of the Year

By Leah Reed

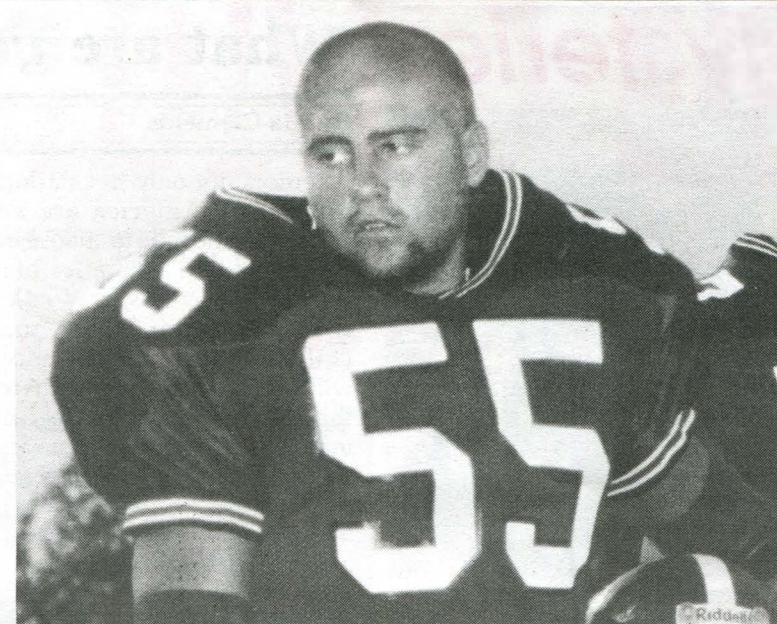
Congratulations to Doug Neill on being selected the Roman Gabriel State Athlete of the Year. The award is given to one Charlotte-Mecklenburg student-athlete each year by the Charlotte Touchdown Club. The Charlotte Touchdown Club is a group of individuals who raise money to support athletes and promote the sport of football.

Doug was nominated by Coach Steve Shaughnessy to represent South Mecklenburg. "Doug Neill is the epitome of what high school sports should be about. He is an outstanding student and a very fine athlete,"

he said.

The award is based on four main requirements: sportsmanship, leadership, academics, and citizenship. Doug, an inside linebacker, had an outstanding season his senior year. Not only is he known for his athletic abilities, Doug is also known for his good attitude both on and off the football field.

Doug is also a dedicated student with a 4.0 GPA, and he is a member of National Honor Society and Beta Club. "I'm honored to win this award because it has rewarded me for hard work and capped off my career at South," Doug said.



Photograph by Dennis Cowardin

Doug Neill had an outstanding football season last fall.

Sabres overcome adversity to stay on top

By Leah Reed

The Lady Sabres basketball team continues their winning streak with victories over such tough competitors as Myers Park and Providence. They have also defeated their biggest conference rival, East Meck. The Lady Sabres are in the running for first place in their conference, with a record of 11-2. The current fight is with West Charlotte for sole possession of the conference crown. They have an overall record of 15 and 7, with all but one of their losses coming from outside their conference.

The Lady Sabres believe one

of their biggest advantages over the other schools is the lack of press coverage. They

"It is our performance that counts in the end."
Coach Gaston

feel it is easier to be the underdog and rise above the competition than to have the pressure of constantly being in the spotlight. When asked about this lack of press coverage and how it affects the team's playing,

Coach Gaston replied: "Our lack of press coverage has served as a motivational tool. Because of this lack of respect for what we have accomplished, it has inspired us to seize the underdog role."

The ladies are well on their way to winning the conference championship and possibly the state finals. It is this possibility that drives the Lady Sabres to continue their quest to be the best. Gaston said "The season is based on potential vs. performance. We have the potential, but it is our performance that counts in the end."

Striving to win against the odds

By Megan McKnight

The swim and dive teams have had an excellent season so far. The women's swim team is third in the conference, behind Providence and Myers Park. The men's team is second in the conference, only behind first ranked Providence. Both teams swam well against North Meck and West Charlotte in a meet on Wednesday, January 28. The women's and men's teams came in second behind North Meck

with West Charlotte coming in third. Senior and co-captain Corey Robinson said "I'm so excited the team is doing so well this year. There is no telling how far we will go." The conference meet is coming up, and South Mecklenburg has a good chance to place. Strength in numbers and many swimmers with experience have helped the team achieve their current standing. Regardless of the outcome, they have given their all this season.

Sabre Basketball looks to rebound

By Chris O'Connor

The Sabre basketball team is hoping to improve their record for the second half of the season. They are currently 6-15, but they should show improvement as key players Jason Gardner, Montrice Stitt, and Andy Gunn return for the rest of the season. They placed third in the Christmas tournament and have handed the previously undefeated Shelby team their first loss this year. "Lorenzo South-

ern has done very well at playing point guard and John Brewer and Aaron Alexander have emerged as our emotional team leaders," said Coach Clark. For the remainder of the season, Coach Clark believes that by concentrating on improving their defense, practicing every day at an intense level, and working hard to improve their offensive execution, the team will have the needed edge to be successful in the playoffs.

Soccer indoor season comes to a close

By Laura King

Although the black indoor soccer team has a mid-season record of 1-4, there is only one position to move and that is up. The team is competing in a varsity-level league against some of the area's top players while fielding a team consisting mostly of freshmen. Indoor is providing South's inexperienced players an opportunity to feel the pressure of high school athletic competition early.

team has a record of 4-2. Consisting of mainly returning varsity players, the team is preparing to prove their abilities early this upcoming outdoor season. The team boasts excellent depth and consistency. With a strong defense, and total of fifty-two goals, talent of the team is evenly spread. Senior Ashly Edwards has proved to be the glue of the defense in tight situations, perhaps the deepest defensive team South has ever had. The expectations of Coach Lynch are high for the coming outdoor season.

As the season comes to a close, South's red indoor soccer

A game for the ages

By Karen Whichard

For one special night in Chapel Hill, all was perfect. The game of the decade turned into the drubbing of the decade, and the men in blue (the lighter version) played as if they could do no wrong. The magical teamwork and authoritative finishes displayed, without doubt, that the Tarheels were the best team on the block. The Dean Dome was electrified by the pre-game hype, and they truly became a sixth player on the floor for Carolina. Duke left, the victim of an unstoppable juggernaut and a twenty-four point loss.

This team, under rookie head coach Bill Guthridge, has evolved into one of the best UNC units in recent memory. They are athletic, fundamentally sound, and, most importantly, they play with a love and passion for the game that cannot be missed. Many throughout the country felt that Carolina basketball would die with the departure of Dean Smith; however, the team has proved the doubters wrong. The Tarheels, though, have a long history of proving the cynics wrong. Last year, this very same team started the ACC 0-3, and many contended that reaching the NCAA would be a miracle in itself. By the time Carolina was through, however, they were in the Final Four.

The victory over Duke, who was the number one team in the nation, marked a turning point in the season. Carolina had been winning, but they had yet to put an exclamation point on a victory. For one magical night, the Tarheels were the best on the block, although February 28 marks a rematch that should be one for the ages.

Sabre Wrestling gets a hold on playoffs

By Chris O'Connor

In their last meet of the regular season, the South Mecklenburg wrestling team defeated Myers Park High School 39-38. This win helped them finish second in the conference and secured a spot in the state playoffs for the first time in four years. They finished their season with a record of 12-6 overall and 6-1 in their conference.

In the conference tournament, Dominique McFadden, Matt Monezynski, and Cameron Stinson placed first in the conference in their weight class. Earlier this season, they also placed well in the Tiger Classic, which hosted 38 teams from the area. The Sabres lost their first match of the state playoffs 36-37 to Pinecrest High School in a very close match. Scott Wilson, Cameron Stinson, and Morris Sanders all finished the season undefeated.

Sabre Student-Exchange Athletes of the Month



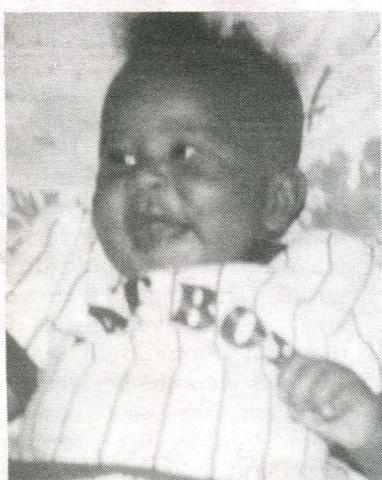
Nadine Mooren

Nadine comes to us from Holland and looks forward to playing soccer for South this spring, since there are no high school girls' teams in her country. Her team at home includes females from ages 15 to 35. She has already gained valuable experience with Americans while playing with Park Sharon United last fall. Nadine enjoys the respect female soccer players receive in this country.

Daniel Gomez

Gomez is a member of South's swim team and is one of the team's best. Gomez comes to us from Mexico City, where he is ranked as the third best swimmer in Mexico. After six years of swimming, he has learned how to interact with others which has made his stay here easier. Daniel has proved to be a crucial member of the swim and dive team, and is, without doubt, one of its most outstanding athletes.

Senior Mysteries



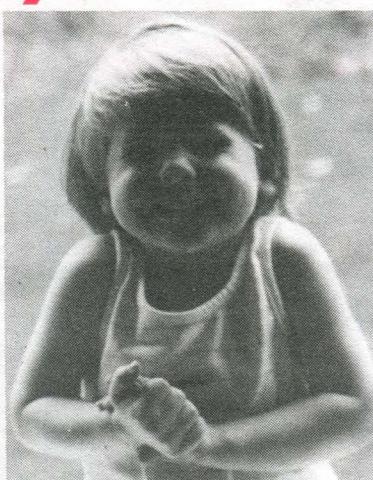
By Tanikkia Tyson

You've seen this senior mystery at his very best when it comes to playing defensive back in football and shooting guard in basketball.

This cool, athletic dude has style and a huge reputation among our peaceful Sabres.

One of this senior mystery's dreams is to play professional football with the Dallas Cowboys. He would like to attend either East Carolina or Emory University.

The next time your car needs to be washed, look up this senior mystery at Autobell Car Wash. If you can't guess who this senior is, look on Page 6.



By Nicole Ewing

You can always see this senior mystery pulling into the parking lot at 7:20 in her gray Honda Accord, running to beat the tardy bell. Happy to be a member of the class of '98, she designed the senior T-shirt. Her senioritis hasn't completely taken control; she is still active in school and in church. She has been a key member of the women's swim team for four years. In her spare time, she is a receptionist at Hair Cuttery at Carolina Place Mall. She plans to attend Appalachian State. Can you guess who this bright-eyed senior is? If not, see Page 6.

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What are you doing after graduation?

By Gia Clements

Seniors not only in Charlotte but across America are approaching the time to choose the path they will take after high school. For seniors, graduation is the most imperative goal. Unfortunately many seniors will fail to finalize their plans for the next school year. Neglecting to plan for the future can and will have a lasting effect on one's life.

Many graduates of 1998 have been dutifully coached and guided by eager parents on choosing the university or college they will attend next fall. Growing up, many children become caught up in intercollegiate rivalries between schools; a passion and a certain level of

pride for "your school" takes root and it becomes part of one's dream to be a part of it. Applying to and being accepted at the college or university of choice makes getting up and struggling through another day of high school a little easier for some seniors.

A senior's decision for his path after high school does not have to include attending a four year college. Junior colleges such as CPCC here in Charlotte are rapidly gaining respect among businesses and employers. In most cases it is not from where one receives a degree, but how hard one is willing to put that degree to work. CPCC offers endless opportunities to excel in life to anyone not planning to attend a four year college or

university. Among other post secondary choices are technical schools offering training in the rapidly growing world of computer technology. Employers look highly upon perspective employees who are computer literate.

No matter what seniors decide to do after high school they should make sure that they choose a path that will lead to a successful and happy life. No matter how insignificant goals may seem at first, their impact in the long run is infinite. Consider your actions and do not stop pushing yourself just because graduation is still months away. Good luck class of '98, the end is in sight but do not lose track of the future, especially that of your own.

Sabre Recognition

Andy Babcock is a winner of The National Beta Club 1998 Harris Leadership Program for exhibiting outstanding leadership abilities and service to school and community. His picture will be featured in the Club's Leadership brochure.

Eric Connelly and Jerry Chastain had their flexography designs submitted for a national competition.

The following students won seats, by audition, in the North Carolina Western Regional Honors Orchestra: Laurie Miltich, 10th; Becky Averill, 10th; Dustin Boring, 10th; Caroline Hill, 12th; Hillary Vaden, 12th; Jason Surratt, 12th; Hanna Aula, 9th. Shell Thaxton, 10th, is a first alternate.

Shaymone Miller, 9th, and Shantana Littlejohn, 11th, were nominated for a Do The Right Thing award by their neighborhoods. The award is given by the Police and Fire Departments to young adults who are good role models.

South won the Regional Mock Trial Competition in February. Students who participated were Andrew Lee, Xan Harrington, Shell Thaxton, Jason Edwards, Joshua Peeler, Trip Howie, and Tory Geiger.

The 1998 South Meck DECA MCEC District Winners were Crystal Muse, Alicia Speller, Mary Llewellyn, Laurel McKnight, and John Van Brederode.

Andy Babcock, Kristy Michue, and Deepa Tungare are representing South as Charlotte Observer All-Star Scholars.

Karen Whichard and Eric Speckman were chosen to represent South in the Phil Hughston Award competition.

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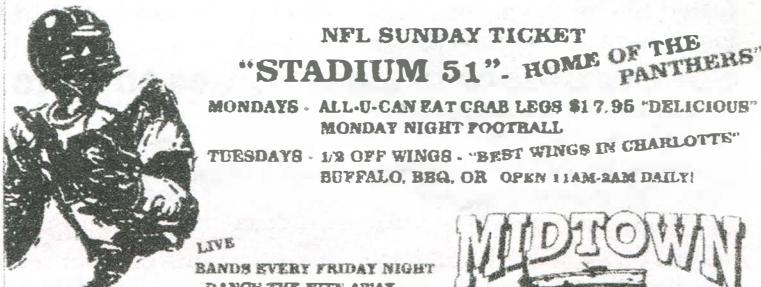
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